

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 were pending. Claims 31-37 were previously withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 24, 26 and 29 have been amended. Claims 38 and 39 have been added. Support for these claims may be found at least at paragraph numbers 18, 159, 161 and 164 of the specification. Claims 1-39 remain pending. No new matter has been added.

Changes to the Drawings

Please replace Figures 8, 10, and 11 with the substitute Figures 8, 10, and 11 attached hereto.

Abstract

Please add the abstract, included herein. This abstract was originally submitted with the application on November 5, 2001.

Declaration

Attached is a copy of the declaration, as filed on February 27, 2002, which includes the signature of Stephane A. Laporte.

Claim Objections under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c)

Claims 16 to 19 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c). Claims 16-19 have been amended as described herein. In view of the clarifying amendments, Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1 to 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants have amended claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 26 and 29, as described herein. In view of the clarifying amendments, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claim 17 has been amended as described herein. In view of the clarifying amendment, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants believe the application to be in condition for allowance, and respectfully request notice thereof at an early date. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed number if, in the Examiner's opinion, such a call would aid in the examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: Sherry M. Carty
Sherry M. Carty
Registration No. 51,534

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(919) 941-9240

Date: March 30, 2004

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450 on March 30, 2004.

by Sandra B. Paye
Sandra B. Paye